

*Washington, DC (April 6, 2011) -- Today Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) issued the following statement in opposition to Republican proposed H.R. 910, The Energy Tax Prevention Act.*

Today, we have heard claims that EPA's regulation of greenhouse gases will lead to a loss of jobs. This couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, Clean Air Act safeguards have benefitted the United States economy tremendously. Enacted in 1970, and amended in 1990, the Clean Air Act has created new jobs and an impressive return on investment—providing \$8 in benefits for every \$1 spent on compliance. Further, studies indicate that the Clean Air Act will provide \$2 trillion dollars in benefits in 2020 -- over \$30 in benefits for every dollar spent in environmental protection.

As we look to the future, there is no question that the most promising areas for job creation and growth come from investment in clean energy source like wind and solar power, and energy efficiency technology. With the encouragement of the Obama Administration this investment has finally begun in the United States, but it will not continue if we pass this bill.

In addition to the clear benefits that the Clean Air Act provides to our economy, the Clean Air Act is on the frontline in our nation's attempt to combat the overwhelming threat posed by climate change. The fact is that the science is clear and denying it won't make it go away. Climate change is real and human activity is a main cause. The ten warmest years on record have all been since 1990, with 2010 the hottest ever. This year we have witnessed drastic changes in temperature. In recent years hurricanes are more severe, water levels are rising, droughts are becoming longer, and mountain glaciers are receding around the world.

As if this isn't evidence enough, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and 17 other leading scientific organizations recently concluded that "If we are to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change, emissions from greenhouse gases must be reduced dramatically."

Despite this urgent, **science-based** call to action, my Republican colleagues have decided to hold a vote on H.R. 910, which would wage war against science and put the health and security of every American in jeopardy by eliminating EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases. Passage of H.R. 910 will mean that more children will suffer from asthma, thousands of people will die each year unnecessarily from exposure to toxic pollutants, and everyone will live on a planet dangerously different from the one we know today.

As a grandparent, I think about how what I do will affect my grandchildren. I think about how my words and my work will be viewed by them and their children. What we say and do is part of the historical record. I caution my colleagues not to be on the wrong side of history, the wrong side of science and not to embarrass your grandchildren by supporting this backward looking legislation.